AMENDED CLAIM SET

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

An optical fiber bending apparatus for connecting optical fiber to a chassis of a networking device, comprising:

a flexible tubular main body having;

a first end;

a second end;

at least one channel with at least two walls substantially parallel to each other, formed within said main body between said first end and said second end, said first end being shaped to receive in said channel at least one optical fiber and said second end being shaped to receive in said channel at least one connector boot disposed around said optical fiber; and

a shoulder in the ~~central~~ channel a predetermined distance from the second end, the shoulder creating two ledges that extend ~~the~~ from the predetermined distance from the second end a length of the channel walls to the first end and extend a predetermined distance away from the channel walls,

wherein said optical fiber is placed in said channel and the main body flexes thereby bending said optical fiber away from said chassis.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended)

A method of organizing optical fibers in a networking device comprising the steps of:

attaching a plurality of fiber benders near respective bases of the optical fibers where the optical fibers connect to line modules, the fiber benders having a first end, a second end, and a central channel formed in a side of said main body; and

providing a shoulder in the central channel a predetermined distance from the second end, the shoulder creating two ledges that extend ~~the~~ from the predetermined distance from the second end a length of the channel walls to the first end and extend a predetermined distance away from the channel walls,

wherein the fiber benders bend the optical fibers substantially orthogonal to the direction from which the optical fibers emerge from the line modules to which they are connected.

Claim 3. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of connecting the optical fibers to LC connectors at least two fibers per LC connector.

Claim 4. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 3, wherein each of the fiber benders is attachable to a single optical fiber.

Claim 5. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 3, wherein each of the fiber benders is attachable to two optical fibers both connected to the same LC connector.

Claim 6. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 2, the optical fibers each having a connector boot disposed around the end of the fiber, further comprising the step of friction fitting the connector boot into the central channel at the second end of each fiber bender.

Claim 7. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of rotating at least one of the optical fibers contained within one of the fiber bending devices so that the rotated fiber is not overlapping an adjacent optical fiber.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 2, wherein an inserted fiber connector boot abuts against the two ledges, thereby preventing the connector boot from being inserted into the central channel beyond the predetermined distance.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented)

A method of organizing optical fibers in a networking device comprising the steps of:

connecting optical fibers to the optical transducers via male and female connectors at a faceplate of the device; and

attaching a plurality of fiber benders near respective bases of the optical fibers where the optical fibers terminate in the male connectors, the fiber benders having a flexible tubular main body having; a first end; a second end; and at least one channel formed within said main body between said first end and said second end, said first end being shaped to receive in said channel at least one optical fiber and said second end being shaped to receive in said channel at least one connector boot disposed around said optical fiber; and

a shoulder in the central channel a predetermined distance from the second end, the shoulder creating two ledges that extend ~~the~~ from the predetermined distance from the second end a length of the channel walls to

the first end and extend a predetermined distance away from the channel walls,

wherein when the optical fibers are respectively inserted into the central channels of the fiber benders, the fiber benders bend the fibers disposed in the central channels away from the chassis of the networking device.

Claim 10. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 9, the connectors being LC connectors, the method further comprising the step of connecting the optical fibers to female LC connectors at least two fibers per female LC connector.

Claim 11. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 10, wherein each of the fiber benders is attachable to a single optical fiber.

Claim 12. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 10, wherein each of the fiber benders is attachable to two optical fibers both connected to the same female LC connector.

Claim 13. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 9, wherein the fiber benders bend the optical fibers substantially parallel to the faceplates of the line modules to which they are connected.

Claim 14. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 9, wherein said disposing step further comprises the step of disposing the line modules vertically inside the chassis, and

wherein said fiber benders bend the optical fibers into a substantially vertical direction.

Claim 15. (Original)

A method of organizing optical fibers according to Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

arranging some of the fiber benders to bend some of the optical fibers vertically upwards; and

arranging some of the fiber benders to bend some of the optical fibers vertically downwards.